

The Coleopterists' Bulletin

Volume 15

June (No. 2)

1961

NEW SYNONYMY IN NEARCTIC ANTHRIBIDAE

By BARRY D. VALENTINE^{1, 2}

A recent trip to the United States National Museum in Washington gave me the opportunity to study the type specimens of North American Anthribidae deposited there. This collection contains holotypes of all anthribids described by Charles Schaeffer and W. Dwight Pierce (except *Toxotropis sextuberculatus* Schaeffer). Examination of the type material there has revealed that four of the species described by Pierce are synonyms of previously described forms. The synonymy is as follows.

Ormiscus saltator LeConte

Ormiscus saltator LeConte 1876. Proc. American Philos. Soc. 15(96): 397.

Ormiscus angulatus Pierce 1930. Proc. United States Nat. Mus. 77(17): 6. *Nec Ormiscus angulatus* Jordan, 1904-290. NEW SYNONYMY.

Ormiscus piercei Sleeper 1954. Ohio Jour. Sci. 54(2): 117. Nomen novum. NEW SYNONYMY.

The only distinguishing feature given by Pierce is that the transverse pronotal carina is "broadly angulate" in *angulatus* and "more sharply and narrowly angulate" in *saltator*. The degree of angulation of this carina is extremely variable, and Pierce's type from Dallas, Texas is not discontinuously divergent from normal *saltator* (based on specimens compared with LeConte's type series). In view of the extensive carinal variation, the only diagnostic feature for separating the two forms becomes worthless. It is also a temptation to synonymize *O. solidus* Pierce; however I have not yet been able to demonstrate that this brown, long haired form is just another variation of *saltator*, although this might well be so.

¹ Department of Zoology and Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

² I wish to acknowledge the help of Miss Rose Ella Warner and Dr. William H. Anderson, U. S. Department of Agriculture, during my studies in Washington.

Ormiscus sextuberculatus (Schaeffer)

Ormiscus sextuberculatus (Schaeffer) 1906. Trans. American Ent. Soc., 32: 269.

Toxotropis victoriensis Pierce 1930. Proc. United States Nat. Mus., 77(17): 11. NEW SYNONYMY.

As in *O. saltator* above, Pierce relies on the conformation of the transverse pronotal carina to distinguish his species; this is "broadly rounded" in *sextuberculatus* and "narrowly rounded" in *victoriensis*. There is variation in this feature in most species of *Ormiscus*. A comparison of the Pierce type from Victoria, Texas with a topotype of *sextuberculatus* from Enterprise, Florida in the Schaeffer collection (this specimen may be the missing type of *sextuberculatus*, but it bears no type label) reveals no differences except in minor details of pattern. These are partially due to sexual dimorphism, males having white faces while those of females are mottled brown. Pierce overlooked this feature although he had both sexes before him, the April 5 specimen being male and the other two being female.

Goniocloeus bimaculatus (Olivier)

Goniocloeus bimaculatus (Olivier) 1795. Entomologie 4, genus 80, no. 19.

Tropideres barberi Pierce 1930. Proc. United States Nat. Mus., 77(17): 13. NEW SYNONYMY.

Pierce says of *barberi*, "the angles of the apical emargination of the beak are never acute, dentiform as in *bimaculatus*." However, his type specimen has these long acute teeth at the edges of the apical emargination as well developed as any *bimaculatus*. Pierce apparently overlooked them because of the heavy pubescence at the rostral apex. He also says that "sides of prothorax [are] strongly sinuate, due to prominence of lateral prolongation of prothoracic ridge" in *bimaculatus*, and "almost evenly rounded" in *barberi*. This is variable in the series I have studied. However there is a tendency for greater angulation in more northern specimens, Pierce's type series being from Brownsville, Texas. He also states that *barberi* has the "punctuation of the head and thorax much finer"; this is exaggerated but true. I feel that the close similarity between the Brownsville and the more northern and eastern specimens indicates a single species, *barberi* representing one extreme of the variation. I realize that this is subjective opinion; material from Texas north of Brownsville would settle this matter, but I know of no specimens taken in this area.

Tropideres fasciatus (Olivier)³

Tropideres fasciatus (Olivier) 1795. Entomologie 4, genus 80, no. 9.

Eurymycter bicarinatus Pierce 1930. Proc. United States Nat. Mus., 77(17): 17. NEW SYNONYMY.

³ The genus *Eurymycter*, in which this species was formerly placed, was synonymized with *Tropideres* Schoenherr, 1823, by Valentine, 1960, Trans. American Ent. Soc., 86 (1): 70, after the present paper was in press.

The only feature cited by Pierce that separates these two forms is the tricarinate vs. bicarinate rostrum. The other differences cited in pattern and sculpture concern characteristics that are notoriously variable in the genus. Therefore a closer look at the rostral carinae is of considerable importance in assessing the degree of relationship. Pierce says of *bicarinatus*, "the rostral carinae are close together and very prominent, with no room for a median carina between them as in *fasciatus*." Despite this statement, his type has a median carina which, although poorly developed, is perfectly visible at the rostral base. Of *fasciatus* he says, "the specimen at hand which most nearly answers the description of this species . . . has . . . two distinct rostral carinae with a less distinct median basal carina." The only difference is one of degree, Pierce's type having higher and closer lateral carinae and a more obscure median one. As a series of *fasciatus* demonstrates the variability of rostral sculpture, it is best to consider *bicarinatus* a synonym representing one extreme of this variability. Pierce's type is from Tenino, Washington; *fasciatus* occurs throughout the Pacific Northwest, specimens having been seen from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah, as well as eastern United States.

REVIEW

The Zoology of Iceland. Volume III, Part 46. Coleoptera 1. Synopsis. by SVEN GISLE LARSSON and GEIR GIGJA. 218 pp., 10 figs. 1952. 2. **General Remarks.** by SVEN GISLE LARSSON. 85 pp., 13 figs. 1959.

The beetle fauna of Iceland consists of 160 species plus 40 species based on adventitious introductions not likely to be established and 7 species whose records are open to doubt. Not one of the 160 established species is peculiar or even subspecifically peculiar to the Iceland fauna, but all occur in northwestern Europe and establish Iceland as a definite part of the Palaearctic region. 78 or 49 percent of the established species are considered by Larsson as indigenous, i.e., as being established in the island before man's advent. Larsson suggests that these indigenous species are the remnants of a Pre-Glacial or even an Oligocene fauna, that arrived in Iceland when the water barriers were much narrower than at present or even non-existent. They sur-

vived the not quite complete glaciation of the country in numerous small refugia, the possible existence of which is considered in some detail. The species introduced by man constitute several categories: 35 species associated with the rural culture, 8 species associated with stables, 5 species associated with human abodes, 19 species associated with stored products, and 14 species associated with horticulture. Several of the adventitious species, the author suggests, are possible candidates for introduction if and when portions of the country are reforested.

The four principal families in the established fauna are Staphylinidae, 59 species (31 indigenous); Carabidae, 19 species (17 indigenous); Curculionidae, 15 species (13 indigenous); Cryptophagidae, 13 species (none indigeneous).

The bulk of the book consists of a carefully prepared annotated list containing: (1) a reference to a recent description, (2) Iceland bibliography, (3) Iceland distribution, (4) general distribution, and (5) biology and remarks. MELVILLE H. HATCH, *University of Washington, Seattle.*